

43.



Hugh Cecil Earl of Lonsdale

High time to be at school

115 A Treatise on Military Equitation. By **W. Tyndale**,
Lieut. Col., and Major of the First Regiment of
Life Guards.

Fingit equum tenerâ docilem cervice magister
Ire viam, quam monstrat eques—HOR.

—— So is my horse ——

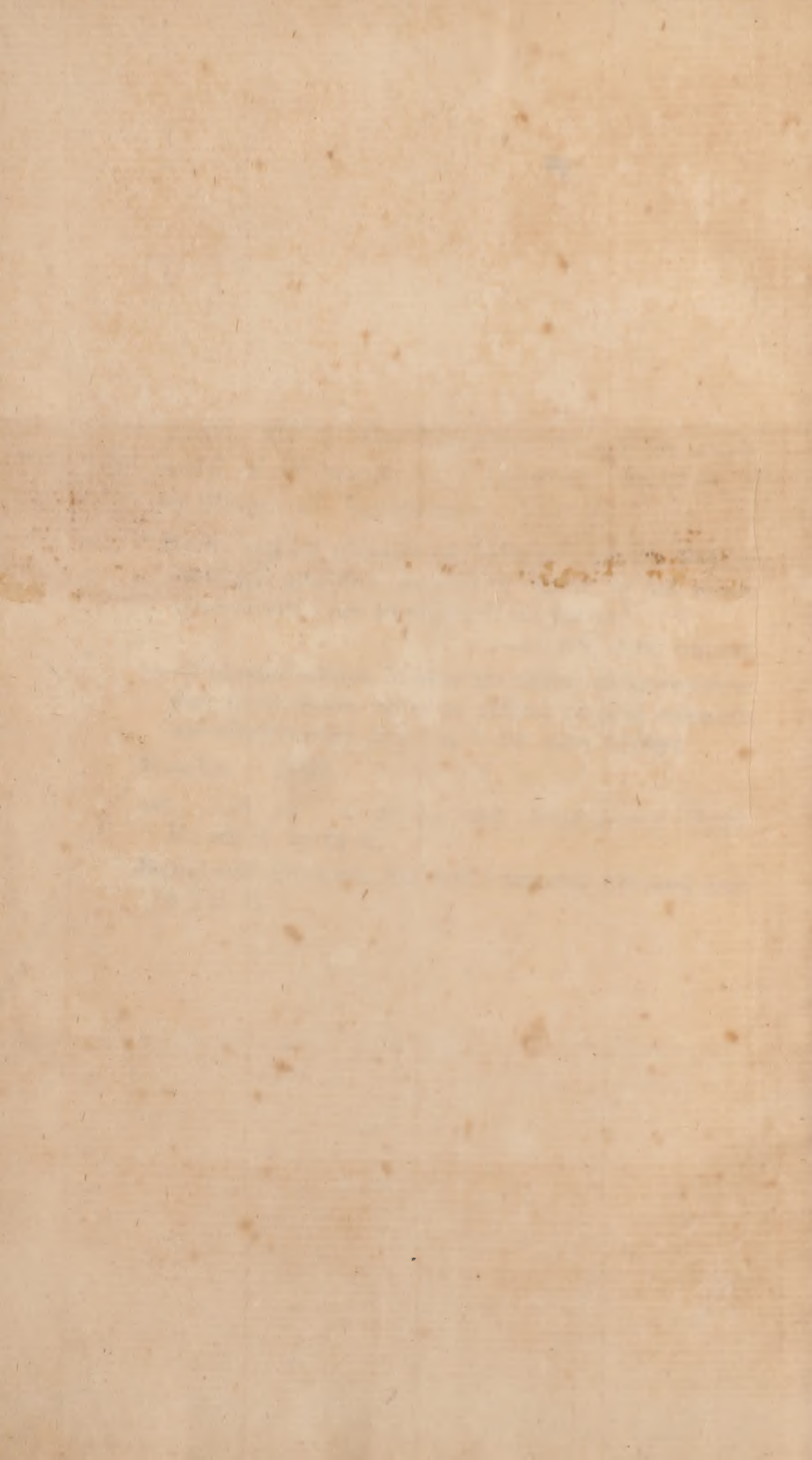
It is a creature that I teach to fight,
To wind, to stop, to run directly on,
His corporal motion govern'd by my spirit.

SHAKESPEARE—(*Julius Cæsar*).

London. 1797.

8vo. First Edition. 88 pp. 5 folding plates. M., 9¼ in.
by 5½ in.

Printed for the Author, and sold by T. Egerton, Military
Library, near Whitehall.



A
TREATISE
ON
MILITARY EQUITATION.

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BY W. TYNDALE,

LIEUT. COL. AND MAJOR OF THE FIRST REGIMENT
OF LIFE GUARDS.

Fingit equum tenerâ docilem cervice magister
Ire viam, quam monstrat eques. HOR.

——— So is my horſe ———
It is a creature that I teach to fight,
To wind, to ſtop, to run directly on,
His corporal motion govern'd by my ſpirit.
SHAKESP. *Jul. Cæſar.*

L O N D O N :

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MDCCXCVII.

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
GEORGE PRINCE OF WALES,
THIS TREATISE
IS
BY PERMISSION,
RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,
BY
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S
MOST DUTIFUL,
AND DEVOTED SERVANT,
W. TYNDALE.

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A
T R E A T I S E
O N
M I L I T A R Y E Q U I T A T I O N.

C H A P T E R I.

I N T R O D U C T O R Y A N D M I S C E L L A N E O U S.

N O T W I T H S T A N D I N G an excellent work has been written by the late Lord P E M - B R O K E on the art of Military Equitation, and although I by no means have the vanity to think any attempt of mine can equal that noble author's production, or that my knowledge of the art can be put in competition with his, I trust the following essay

B

will

will not be altogether unacceptable, and flatter myself it will be found to contain some useful instructions for regimental riding-masters. These for the most part, have been taken from the ranks, and having confined their observation and study only to their profession, require explanations very clear and detailed, and the plainest and most convincing reasons when an attempt is made to alter, or introduce any thing new, as they are in general strongly bigotted to the precepts they first imbibed, however erroneous those may be.

Lord PEMBROKE has shewn a very extensive knowledge of this art, so neglected as to be almost unknown in this country, and without exception, his is the best work of the kind in our language; but I think it notwithstanding too deep and too scientific for a treatise on Military Equitation, and infinitely beyond the comprehension of those whom it is my wish to teach and reform,

form, or for the instruction of a regimental riding-master. This work shall be so plain and simple, that the commander of a regiment of cavalry, though he may never have served before but in the infantry, and not be (what every officer commanding a regiment of horse or dragoons should be) a good military-manage rider, if he approves the principle, shall have it in his power to say to his riding-master, “ This, Sir, is the mode of instruction you are to adopt, and not to deviate from ; and I shall, by comparing your recruits, as they are dismissed from the riding-house, with this book, be enabled to discover if you have obeyed my orders or not.”

It is not my intention, nor indeed would it be my wish, were I equal to the task, to enter into a detail of the Art of Equitation ; for I believe the only part of it necessary for cavalry is that which is indispensably so, to render each individual of a squadron capa-

ble of executing all manœuvres required in battle. All that I wish of a horſe foldier in reſpect to his knowledge of the art, is confined to half a dozen ſimple actions :

1ſt. To advance his horſe at any pace ordered, from the halt.

2d. To turn him to either hand.

3d. To gallop to the right or left.

4th. To ſtop him.

5th. To rein him back.

6th. To paſſage to the right or left.

In all which he may be complete in three months, mounting and diſmounting, and all ſtable duties included.

Trifling as theſe qualifications may appear, I firmly believe there are not in the ſervice at this moment twenty men who poſſeſs them ; and yet twenty men well acquainted with them would in three months form as many regiments of dragoons.

To inſtruct a dragoon or trooper in an extenſive knowledge of the art might be
attended

attended with many disadvantages ; those which seem the most striking, are

1st. The length of time necessary for attaining this degree of perfection.

2d. The fatigue of a campaign will, in all probability, weaken the horse so far as to deprive him of his usual sensibility to the aids of his rider, and consequently make him unpleasant to one who has been accustomed to ride a lively horse ; and though perhaps not so weak, or reduced, as to be quite unserviceable, yet in this state the rider would endeavour to avoid ever mounting him till he had recruited his strength and spirits ; and in hopes of having him replaced by a fresh one, be tempted to get rid of him by neglect, or even lose him in the field on the first opportunity.

3d. The continual and unavoidable waving of the line would occasion false aids to be given, and worry both man and horse when too high dressed.

A school

A school for military equitation, where regiments of cavalry might send pupils, who when sufficiently taught might be appointed *Instructors*, was an idea of Mons. le Comte DRUMMOND de MELFORD, an officer whose abilities are well known, and from whose work I am not ashamed to acknowledge I extract some of the materials to complete this.

Dragoons are as useful and formidable an arm as can be brought into the field, when they are good and clever; as they are supposed to be capable of acting in both the capacities of horse and foot, but if they are not perfect, I will venture to say they are nearly useless; because a body of men who have to learn one thing only, must be more perfect than those who have to learn that, and another. Thus it is natural to suppose a battalion would be preferable to them for foot business, and that cavalry would be equally good, if not superior, to
 them

them when mounted : therefore they should be perfect in both capacities ; for unless they combine both, they can only be bad cavalry and indifferent infantry, or bad infantry and indifferent cavalry. The horse is however a very material part, for if he is not properly trained, instead of being an assistance and support to the man, he becomes an incumbrance. It is then absolutely necessary to teach him to be handy and manageable,

“ To wind, to stop, to run directly on,

“ His corporal motion governed by my spirit.”

That is, the motions of the horse should be governed by the skill of the rider, who must first be instructed how to govern ; for as the untaught horse is an incumbrance to a taught horseman, so will the untaught horseman be to the taught horse ; thus, the untaught part of this arm, by its awkwardness, would deprive the perfect part of its power, and, in all probability, 'the first
 affair

affair they would get into, they both would be killed.

There is a great difficulty attending the attempt to teach the manage method of riding in this country, because the national one is so very different, and however well the latter may be adapted to the common purposes of hunting, &c. yet large connected bodies of horsemen would find it impossible to move with that precision necessary, if they adopted it in their various manœuvres. The manage however, to a certain point appears well calculated to render any evolutions as practicable to numbers as to a single horse. Thus it is seen in countries where the manage system is unknown, that their cavalry are almost always beaten by an inferior number of well-trained, or indeed indifferently *trained* cavalry. Notwithstanding the superior excellence of their horses, the native cavalry of India were beaten by a smaller number of British dragoons

goons in the war with TIPPOO; and the Hungarian hussars, unless immensely overpowered by numbers, were always victorious over the Turks, though their horses, in point of vigour, speed, and wind, are confessedly superior to the Hungarian horse, the best the emperor has for his cavalry. This shews the advantage of good over bad riding, and *that* regiment whose horsemen are individually the best, must necessarily be the best collectively. In the course of a campaign it will lose fewer horses, than any other regiment which has been worked equally with it, but which is inferior to it in point of horsemanship. It now remains for me to prove that the present system, which is much the same throughout the cavalry, is contrary to every principle of true horsemanship, both in the instruction of man and horse.

In the first place, I shall take notice of their method of breaking horses. The very

title given to the assistants in the riding-houses is enough to condemn it---Rough Riders! and very rough riders they are; gentleness and good temper are banished from the riding-house, and war is declared against every animal that enters it, unless he is naturally more patient and meek than an ass, and even these qualities will not secure him altogether from the lacerating lashes of the merciless rough riders, who immediately vote him sulky. If he has a proper degree of vivacity, he is stigmatized with the character of a *Rum Jockey*, and the whip raises a devil in him which all the skill of the learned equestrians cannot lay. Patience is a word not known in their vocabulary, and they expect a great unwieldy stiff animal to be suppled, and to acquire in ten lessons what might be looked upon as considerable progress if he attained in fifty. The common effects of teaching the horse to canter, before he has been suppled

(which

(which they constantly do) are curbs, and not unfrequently spavins, and thus he is often spoiled, and rendered unfit for service before he quits the riding-school. The passage is never given him properly. His head is always turned the wrong way, which is the same as blinding him; for to prevent him looking the way he is going, renders him liable to run against obstructions, which if he saw he would naturally avoid. Very seldom indeed is he taught to gallop to the left as well as to the right, a neglect which leaves half the horse as stiff as ever.

Correction is often necessary, but it should be well timed and given with temper, and one blow will often suffice; for the horse recollects his fault and consequent correction; if he repeats it, the correction must be repeated; but severe flogging continued for a long time will only enrage and frighten the animal without correcting his fault.

Having thus shewn the improper method adopted by our riding-masters in horse breaking, I will point out the mistaken notion entertained of instructing the man, who unless he rides with ease and comfort to himself cannot sit for a long time on his horse; and if he is cramped and stiffened he certainly is not at his ease. See plate I. you will there, gentle reader, behold not a caricature, for it was taken from life, but a soldier placed by his riding-master, who, proud of his performance, in his own language exults over it----“ Should not be ashamed for nobody to see him, if he always sat so.”

In order to procure this elegant easy seat, he begins by poking up the man's chin in the air, then he squeezes his arms and his elbows close to his side, like a fowl trussed for the spit; the legs are then pulled straight down from the hips, that they hang over the saddle like a pair of tongs, throwing



throwing him up at the same time on his fork, so that the part designed by nature to sit upon, is on this occasion relieved from its accustomed employment. This might suit one of Candide's unfortunate matrons, but is undoubtedly a very inconvenient and unsafe seat for a person who has not suffered the loss those poor ladies did.*

The various inconveniences which must arise from such a seat are obvious. That it is unnatural, therefore bad, is plain. Does the plough boy sit in that manner on his horse as he rides home from his work? No! you see him sit down plump (I make use of this word as it expresses very strongly the seat all men ought to have on horse-back) his legs hang easy by his horse's side, his hand is forward holding the rein. Tell him how he may indicate to the horse, by the pressure of one leg and a turn of the

* Vide Candide.

wrist, the way he wishes him to go ; teach his hand to have a *sympathetic sensation* with his horse's mouth, neither to hold himself on by the bit, nor let his horse's head hang down between his legs, and he will be excelled by very few riders in our service.

The succeeding pages will contain the method I think most proper, because it is most natural, to render a horse, of any description, tractable, pleasant and safe, and the following chapters will point out the method of riding him pleasantly and without danger. I have endeavoured to be plain and intelligible, even to those who may have never made the art their study.

CHAPTER II.

OF TRAINING THE TROOP HORSE.

THE great object in dressing a horse is to supple him in every joint, and every muscle, by which his limbs and his whole frame acquire a greater elasticity, and he of course becomes more active ; this is not to be effected by merely lunging him, but by the hand and skill of the horseman ; he will, every day he is well rode, continue to acquire more figure and ease in his gait, and become more pliable.

A horse intended only for the manage, like a good dancer, as long as he has youth, vigour, and constitution on his side, will at each lesson acquire more agility ; but as it is a troop or war horse, and not a manage horse, which is the subject of this work, the method of training and preparing

paring him for the squadron is what I shall endeavour to explain.

In the first place then I shall suppose he has never had a saddle on his back ; it will be necessary to accustom him to undergo that operation. Great patience and much quietness must be observed by the riding-master in doing this. Having first put a snaffle bridle into his mouth, and a cavesson on his nose, with the lunge buckled to the centre ring held by the riding-master ; let one of his assistants approach the horse on the near side with a saddle, having a surcingle hanging over the end of it, which he must take care to hang *clear* over the horse and saddle, on either side ; then place it gently on his back ; this done, soothe him, and make much of him, the man continuing to hold the saddle on the horse ; if he attempts to kick it off, the riding-master must raise his nose quietly, not by a snatch, as high as he can, which will prevent him.

This

This is enough for the first lesson, and should be practised only after he has finished his lesson in the lunge, as should each attempt to saddle him, until he is brought to bear it patiently, and quietly, nor should he on any account be mounted till that is the case.

The second day, having placed the saddle as before directed, let the man reach the off side of the surcingle, and bring it gently under his belly, taking care not to tickle him, and put the end of the strap through the buckle two inches, but not strain it till he has got so good a hold of it that he may be certain of securing the saddle fast to the back; not by suddenly drawing up the surcingle, but as gradually as possible; probably this will make the horse plunge a little, and should he kick the saddle off, it will be a business of time to get him to bear it at all. He should stand and feed with his saddle on, during the first lessons.

D

When

When he can bear to have the saddle girthed up, and not fall then, with the same gentleness put the crupper on.

FIRST CLASS.

The first lesson to give the horse is in the lunge; and to get him to trot round to the right and left is all that can be expected the first three or four days. Each time you change him from the right to the left in the lunge, make him approach you by shortening the lunge in your hand, and caress him before you send him off again.

Having made him acquainted with the lunge, you may begin to supple him by making him bend his head and neck well into the circle, and throw out the haunches; thus making his fore legs describe a smaller circle, just within that described by the hind. Continue this lesson for ten days. After each lunging he may be mounted,
but

but must not be made to move ; as all required at first is for him to suffer a man to mount and dismount. If he is good tempered, and suffers himself to be mounted without resistance, you may, towards the latter days, let him carry the man to the riding-house door, or ten yards ; but by no means attempt to trot him mounted in the lunge, till the end of ten days at least.

If he has been mounted before he was recruited, on no account mount him again, till he has been well suppled in the lunge ; all you can do is, if his condition will allow it, to give him longer lessons ; you may gain a little time in that case, and mount him after ten days lunging instead of fourteen ; that is, the four first days, comprising the first lesson, may be omitted, and you may begin at the second. This *first class* comprises only fourteen days.

SECOND CLASS.

You may now mount him in the lunge ; and having accustomed him to carry patiently in a walk, by degrees quicken him to a gentle trot ; the rider bending his fore-hand into the circle, and accustoming him to the aid of the leg by pressing it against his side, until he, by flinching from it, appears to obey it, at the same time cautiously avoid giving him the spur, which should never be done but as a correction, and then decidedly. Tickling with the spur is very likely to give horses a habit of kicking at it with one leg, and some learn this trick however carefully they may have been ridden ; the best mode of correcting this fault I know of, is to pinch the horse hard between both heels, and ease your hand at the same time. As soon as he has made his spring, collect him again, and try the calf of the leg to him ; should he again
kick,

kick, repeat the correction, till he will bear the spur---Observe, I have directed that you are to *pinch* or squeeze the horse between the heels, and not to kick him, for that very often makes a horse restive and unruly. I would not recommend a horse addicted to this fault, to be released from the lunge, till he has completely left it off.

Whilst the horse remains in the lunge, the man must make him acquainted with the aid of both hand and leg. You should raise and place his head well, never letting him get his nose down, for which reason I recommend strongly a snaffle bridle with running reins, with the ends buckled to the saddle about half way down the skirt, and to such horses as push out their noses, a head stall martingale; but to all horses a common martingale, placed so as to act on that part of the rein between the saddle and the bit. With this bridle a horse's head may be raised
very

very high and his nose well placed, if not used with violence. It is needless to add that he should be changed to the right or left frequently, and should the horse whilst in the lunge strike into a gallop, if it be not false or disunited, let him continue for a round if he pleases, but do not urge him to it. In using the *running rein*, there must be great attention shewn in the management of it. The power of it is so great, that it requires a very steady hand; in bending the horse to one hand, be careful to ease off the opposite rein: to attempt to bend the horse to the left, and at the same time to keep the right rein strained, may make him restive, as he will try every means to get rid of this irksome confinement. This is the only way to supple, and to produce an accord between the mouth, shoulders, and haunches, which if you do not, your horse is unbroke. A horse is deemed unbroke, or as a celebrated French writer says, “il n’est pas fait, s’il n’est

n'est pas uni des epaules, de la main & des jarrets."

The horse may now be released from the lunge and worked round the house. First in a slow well collected trot, then in a faster trot, and lastly in his full trot; which two last paces must not be attempted till he performs the slow pace with ease and exactness, keeping time as it were to music. In the course of this second class, which will contain twelve lessons, he may be brought to his fastest trot, if he shews a disposition to be active, for it is obvious, that all horses are not equally stiff or equally supple, some requiring to be kept for a much longer time at the different exercises recommended in each class, but none for less.

THIRD CLASS.

This third class will contain eighteen days or lessons, and much must be done in this time: he must be put upon his haunches
and

and finished all but galloping, which is the last thing taught, and the easiest if the horse has been properly worked in the foregoing classes.

The beginning of each day's lesson should be trotting, with frequent changing, and on small circles, and should finish with what is generally called *shoulder in*, but which in fact is not, that being one of the most difficult airs attempted in the manage. To proceed in going to the right, bend his fore hand by shortening the right rein ; I say his fore-hand, because the legs and chest must be *half faced* to the right, and preserve that position as he advances, his hind legs moving straight, and carrying the greatest part of the weight on them ; to make them do which, hold your horse in, on the mouth-piece of his bridle, and throw your heels back, threatening him with the spur : do not hold him too hard, or he will rear up ; but if he is properly held, he will be found
to

to champ on his bit, and yield with his under jaw to its pressure. As this lesson is very severe, it should be short and frequently repeated: for example, the horse should not be constrained after *once* he *has obeyed*, for more than one long side, and one corner of the house; release him then by degrees, and immediately repeat it. The passage must also in each day's lesson of this class be given thus; put him in the same attitude required for the shoulder-in, but instead of forcing him up to his bit, press him hard by degrees with the calf of the opposite leg, and he will move sideways; take care however he does not go back, (which horses in learning this are apt to do) and that his fore-hand always leads. Reining back is necessary to be taught in this class, and care should be taken to make him move back in a straight line; horses in the first attempt at this are very awkward, and throw their *croups* from side to side.

The bit is never to be put in the mouth till he has been galloped and finished.

A very necessary accomplishment which is never practised, should also, and during the remaining time he is detained in the school, be taught both to man and horse; I mean leaping; not flying, but cool standing leaps; if the horse during the remaining classes was, until he could perform tolerably well, first led over, and then rode over a bar at the finish of each lesson, he would with such practice leap any hedge or other low fence, which now proves an insurmountable obstruction to most of the light and to all the heavy cavalry. When in the drill, after his dismissal from the school, he might be practised at ditches.

The succeeding class which is the fourth, contains eighteen lessons or days, and is intended for the gallop.

FOURTH CLASS.

OF THE GALLOP.

In the first attempt at this pace, choose that hand to which the horse is most supple; for as men are more active and perfect with their right hand, generally speaking, than with their left, from being accustomed to use the right hand most, so horses naturally acquire a greater agility with one leg than with another, from using it most when colts; and I have remarked, that either from this cause (or what I think is more likely, from the person who broke him having ridden stiffer to one side than to the other) there is a greater suppleness in one side than in the other. After the cavesson and lunge are fixed on his head, order the rider to present him to the gallop, which is done by putting your horse together, that is, setting him on his haunches, and feeling

both reins equally, and applying both legs to his sides, but the outside harder than the inside. This will throw his croup into the circle, and oblige him to strike off with the proper leg, which when he has done, sustain him, or keep him to it by threatening with your whip, assisting with your legs and voice, but not using your spurs. When he gallops tolerably well to the right, (which requires six lessons at least) he must be taught to gallop to the left, which will also require six lessons more, and six succeeding ones out of the lunge will be necessary to teach him to change on the gallop from right to left. The bit may now be placed in his mouth, and for the space of six days more repeat every lesson of the third and fourth classes, that his mouth may be accustomed to the bit by the steady hands of the instructors previous to his being delivered to the men for the drill.

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The foregoing course has taken up sixty-two days, or, Sundays included, ten weeks, which with persons properly qualified to act as horse-breakers, is as short a time as can be, considering the kind of horse on which our light and heavy cavalry are mounted; but is enough. I then recommend a sufficient number of the best horsemen in the regiment to be sought for, and a drill to be formed of all horses in the same state of forwardness, to be commanded by one of the rough riders when leaping the bar and the ditch. The horse evolutions must be practised; the two first days in a walk, the six succeeding ones in a trot, and four more in a gallop. I should now consider the horse fit for the squadron when properly accoutred.

The superiority a regiment riding well and on well broke horses would have over one where the horse required as much room and as much time to turn as a broad wheeled waggon,

waggon, is too obvious to need any further comment.

I must however beg leave to notice a curious fact, on which I will afterwards hazard an opinion. The Hussars are, generally speaking, men of five feet nine inches high, and they ride horses little more than fourteen hands. One would imagine a man so much *under horsed* would be useless rather than formidable; but the astonishing agility of these people, and the service they have performed, sufficiently shew the contrary. I am therefore led to imagine the reasons they are so under mounted, are---first, that unless a Hussar be extremely active, and can turn almost as quick as a man on foot, he is useless; therefore agility is required in the animal more than strength; but that is no reason why both agility and strength should not be combined in him if possible. Secondly, a horse with agility and strength, equal to
the

the weight of a man five feet nine inches high, is both expensive and scarce; and as a Hussar ought to be easily and cheaply replaced, there generally being a great expenditure of them, as they are always at work, the preference was given to the activity of the animal, and the Hussar was put upon a small horse of low price; but like all other small horses, of much more agility than a dragoon horse. From his small size, also were derived one other advantage, and, in my opinion, one great disadvantage. The advantage is, that the little horse fills himself sooner, and takes less forage to do it than the large one; and the disadvantage is, the Hussar cannot leap, being too low and too heavily loaded to attempt it. How capitally might a regiment of Hussars be mounted in Great Britain and Ireland, where there are abundance of horses able to carry from twelve to fourteen stone, about fifteen hands high,

bred

bred on the commons, particularly in Wales, to be purchased for twenty pounds a piece. They are not very handsome, but they have shoulders and haunches, capable of very active movements. A regiment thus mounted, the men from five feet three inches to five feet six, would be superior to Hussars, either for speed, agility or strength, nor would they by any means form a despicable regiment of dragoons, I mean in point of weight.

Thus concludes my system of horse-breaking, taking up seventy-two days, Sundays not included, not quite three months; and as for the most part recruit horses seldom are more than four years old, they should on no account be worked harder; six, seven or eight years old horses, may by taking double lessons, if they are in good condition, be finished in half that time.

CHAPTER III.

OF THE INSTRUCTION OF THE RECRUIT ON
HORSEBACK.

I SHALL preface this chapter by observing, that although this art may be reduced to a science, I think it unnecessary to instruct the recruit in the theory of its principles. But as this is meant for the use of those who are to become instructors, it is indispensable to explain the theory of it.

I have made the foregoing observation lest they might be led into the error of conceiving, that detailed explanations were necessary for the recruit. I would tell him that when he wants to turn his horse to the right, he must place the bridle hand in the fifth position, and apply his right leg to the horse's side.

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It

It here becomes necessary to speak more particularly on the position of the hand.---The left is called the bridle hand, from its always holding the reins. The arm should fall naturally and with ease from the shoulder to the elbow, which should be a little advanced, so that you may just perceive the light between the elbow and the body. The wrist should be in a line with the elbow, and the hand over the pommel of the saddle; yet this position of the wrist can only be laid down as a general rule; for much must depend on the manner in which the horse carries his head; if high, the wrist must be dropped a little to lower his nose; and if low, must be held higher to raise it. But when the wrist is once placed, the elbow should be immoveable, as all motion should proceed from the wrist alone.

The hand is now to be placed in the first position, viz. the nails should be opposite the buttons of the waistcoat, and of course the

knuckles towards the horse's mane, the little finger being on a line with the bone of the elbow. From this position it is capable of performing four movements, or taking four other positions for various purposes, which will hereafter be explained, and some of which are accompanied by a help or movement of one or both legs. The hand is generally carried in the first position, when the horse is going forward, and not shewing any disposition to turn on either side, to throw up his head, or to make any false movement.

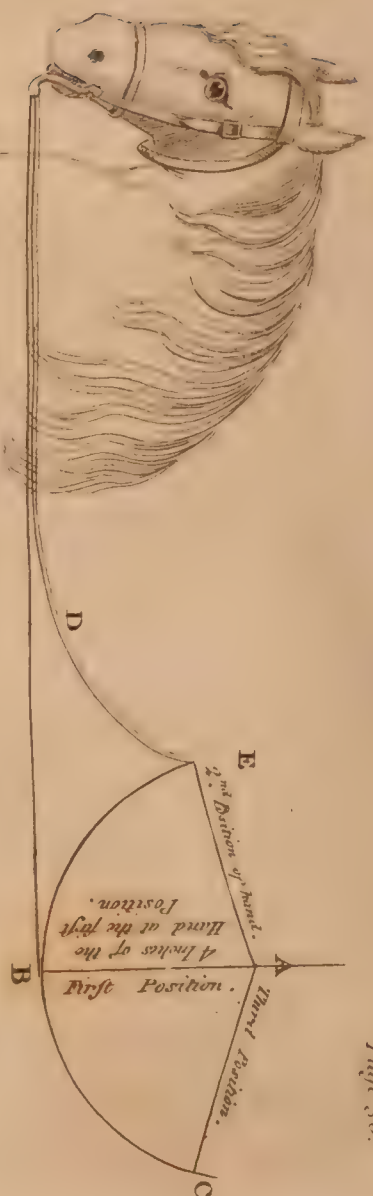
The second position consists in turning the knuckles upwards, and then slackening the rein as after halting; or to give the horse the liberty of moving forward by easing his mouth, and this is usually accompanied with closing the legs to the horse's side.

The third position is to check the horse, in order to make him drop from a quick pace into a slower one, or to stop him en-

tirely, and requires the knuckles to be turned downwards. No greater or wider movement of the hand can be necessary, or ought to be allowed, either to slacken the rein, even in the fastest pace, or from that pace to stop the horse, than what is called the second and third positions.

The fourth position consists in carrying the little finger to the left, and inclining the knuckles upwards, by which movement the horse will turn his fore-hand to the left, and if the left leg be applied to his flank at the same time, he will turn as long as the hand and leg are continued in these positions.

The fifth position consists in carrying the little finger outward, to the right, and inclining the knuckles downwards, and if the right leg be pressed to the flank, the horse will do the same to the right as he did to the left in the fourth position.



D. Shows that by moving the line B.A. into the Position E.A. That the Rein might be Slack, as it shortens the distance from the Bit to B. very near 4 Inches. The hand is supposed to be 4 Inches from the Top of the Knuckles of the 1st Finger to the lower side of the little Finger.

FIRST CLASS.

I now proceed to divide my instructions into classes, in the same manner as was done in the preceding chapter.

I suppose the recruit to be so far advanced in his foot-drill as to be quite supplied ; if he comes to the riding house before he has attained that, he will probably make but slow progress. He should first be taught to saddle his horse in such a way that the saddle may not pinch or bruise the withers, and this must be firmly impressed in his mind, by being repeated to him every day during his remaining in the first class. The saddle should be placed about six or seven inches behind the withers, and the crupper buckled so as to prevent it, whilst ungirted, from getting forwards ; but when the girths are once drawn, the crupper should not be on the stretch, for that would not only set
the

the horse a kicking, but gall his tail, the consequence of which often renders a horse unserviceable for several weeks. It may produce a violent inflammation and sore, not to be cured but with great time and attention. To avoid this, you must instruct your recruit never to have his crupper tight, and that if the saddle will not keep in its place without the crupper, it does not fit the horse properly, and the recruit should be instructed to apply to his quarter-master to get it altered. You next tell him to be very careful to draw the buckle of the girth two or three inches at least on both sides above the bottom of the pannel, or else the buckles will fret and gall the skin. If the pannel be thin and hard, he should report it to his quarter-master, and desire to have it new stuffed, or a new one. Make him unsaddle and saddle his horse in your presence, or that of your assistants, and see that he pays attention to every particular in detail. The
riding-

riding-master is certainly the person who has, or ought to have bitted the horses of the regiment; I therefore suppose the horses to have the bridle properly placed in the mouth.

Of the shape and properties of the bit, a most powerful machine when properly constructed and managed, but ineffectual and likely to do mischief when improperly constructed or managed, I shall speak very fully in another place.

The recruit should be taught that the bridle is to hang in the horse's mouth, so as not to pucker up the corner of it, but just to touch it, and the mouth-piece will then rest on the bars, which is the proper place for it: that the curb chain must be placed neat and smooth, and ought never to be looser, than to admit the finger between it and the jaw. The nose band buckled just in the same degree of tightness round the nose over the bridoon head-stall, which
must

must be precisely of the same length with the bridle.

You then proceed to give him the method of mounting and dismounting, which in the heavy dragoons is made much longer than in the light, by an useless set of motions. I think the following motions would be as good as any.

At the word "*Prepare to mount,*" let the man who is standing on the near side of his horse's head, turn quickly to the right, stepping back at the same time, so as to be placed opposite the shoulders; then let him take up the reins as quick as possible, and putting the little finger of the left hand between the near and off rein, let him grasp both together with the three other fingers, along with a lock of the mane, and shorten the reins a little, by drawing the ends with the right hand through the left, and thus letting them fall on the off shoulder.

The

The right hand then will be occupied by holding the stirrup: at the next word, "*Mount,*" let the man put his left foot in the stirrup, and at the same moment his right hand to the back part or cantle of the saddle; let him spring nimbly off the ground with the right foot, assisting himself with his hand, and throwing his whole weight on the left foot in the stirrup. Then he should raise his right thigh as high as he can, to clear the cloak, or whatever may be on the pillion or pad, wheel himself round into his seat, and all this should be done in less than a second.---Being there seated, he should let go the mane, and with his right hand draw the bridoon rein behind the left, and place it in it, which he immediately raises to the first position, at the same time placing his right foot in the stirrup. I should have remarked that the first thing to be done on the recruit's leading

G

his

his horse into the riding-school is to put on a cavesson and lunge.

The man when mounted may be considered as consisting of three parts---two moveable, and one immoveable. The body from the head to the hips, and the legs from the knees downwards, are moveable. This leaves the thighs immoveable. In placing the man, cautiously avoid touching or even mentioning his feet or legs; if you do, or attempt to place the leg (as it is called by the riding-masters) you will certainly give a stiffness to it, which will for ever prevent his becoming a horseman. Begin with his head, and tell him to hold it back, not *up*; for holding up the head is throwing up the chin; but holding *back* the head is drawing it up from resting on the collar-bone, and placing it even between the shoulders. Let his arms hang down on each side, as if they were coat-sleeves stuffed. By bending
the

the small of the back, and forcing the lower part of the chest forwards, the shoulders will be carried rather behind than in a direct perpendicular.

OF THE THIGH AND SEAT.

The common method used by riding-masters to give a man a seat, is to place him exactly on the fork, neglecting to bring that part designed by nature for the seat, on the saddle, and then seizing him by the foot, to twist his legs as a dentist does a tooth to loosen it. This stiffens the knee joint, and gives the legs and thighs the same position in the saddle that a pair of tongs would have; whereas if they would content themselves with telling the man to turn *the outside of his thigh* well up, that is, to force it round towards the horse's head, and not to stiffen the knees, the conse-

quence would be, that the leg would turn with it, and come into the proper place.

Having placed the man in his saddle, give him his reins in his left hand, properly divided, as directed in the mounting instruction, (page 40,) and put a switch in his right, directing him to carry it in the manner the regiment carry their swords. This will be the means of accustoming him to ride afterwards with more ease when he has his sword given him.

A young beginner should not be hurried ; before he is made to trot in the lunge, he should feel himself a little confident, and it ought to be from him, or at his desire, that the horse should quicken his pace ; his being without stirrups, if you begin too roughly with him, will, for the first lessons, make him either very unsteady, or else he will cramp and stiffen himself to keep on his saddle, by holding on with his legs.



A. Metcalf: Inv.

Braham Sculp.

legs. He should be lunged fourteen days at least, first on easy horses, very slowly, and as you perceive him acquire a seat, quicken the trot by degrees.

He should practise frequent changes to the right and left, and at each change observe that he puts his hand to the proper position. When you see that the movement of the hand begins to be a little familiar to him, he may be instructed in the helps with the legs ; which are as follow :---First, to indicate to your horse your intention of moving forwards or faster.

Secondly, to make him place his croup in any situation you please, to make him passage, and to turn him to either side.

The legs and spurs are also made use of as corrections. In giving the leg, take care not to use *the spur*, unless the horse will not obey you ; therefore begin with fixing the knee well to the saddle, and then turn out the toe, apply very gently the calf of the

the leg to the horse's flank, carrying the foot *well back*. If touching the side with the leg gently does not produce obedience in the horse, squeeze him harder; if he will not answer that, pinch him with the spurs; and the next time you threaten him with your leg, you may depend on his obeying your movement---but avoid, if possible, using the spur. Thus when the legs and hand have a sympathetic sensation, assisting each other mechanically, the horseman may be told, that his hand and legs are in unison, which is the best translation I can give of the French term, “ *l'accordance de la main & des jambes,*” without which a man cannot be a horseman.

I have said the legs must assist mechanically the help of the hand; by this I mean, that the horseman should contract such a habit of using his legs to assist the hand, that though he may be occupied by talking to company he is riding with, yet if the road

has

has a sudden turn to the right, the hand should mechanically fall into the fifth position, and the right leg be at the same instant applied as above directed, to his flank, to turn his croup, without discontinuing the conversation.

I have before observed, that some of the helps, of the hand are accompanied with aid from the one or both legs. Thus, at the second position, which is to ease the hand, or rather the mouth by releasing it from the pressure of the bit ; if, as may be the case to a dull horse, this motion does not sufficiently indicate to him your intention, apply both legs gently to him, and he will immediately move forward ; but if one only is applied, it will make him only move his hind quarters *from* the pressure ; this shews therefore clearly, that if at the same time the hand is put in the fourth or fifth position, which will inevitably turn his forehead, the leg be applied, it will hasten the evolution by
sustaining

sustaining his hind-quarters. For, if you bend a horse's forehand only, and then put him in action, he will move on a circle, instead of turning on a pivot, which the pressure of the leg obliges him to do.

To return to the pupil, (who as he is only to be taught mechanically) must be accustomed by practice to acquire your method of riding; therefore observe that at each turn or changing of hands, *his* legs and hands act together. If at the end of fourteen days trotting and practice he has acquired the habit of using his hands and legs at each turn, he may be released, and begin the second class.

This, as well as the first, should be gone through without stirrups, which should not be given till he is dismissed from the school. During the first three weeks or eighteen days, nothing but trotting, with frequent changes and circles at each corner, is necessary. The next eighteen lessons or days,
after

after a few rounds of trotting and changing, shew him how to passage, and to rein back, and finish each lesson by a few wheelings.

The third and last division of this class is twelve days, and should be employed in forming up from single horsemen following one another to two, four, six, and eight, and then reducing this again in the same way; also varying it. Thus from single horsemen forming a front of any given telling or number, such as *Form Front* of eight; and for which reason, when the recruits arrive at this state of forwardness, they must be told off into files, threes, and sections of eight. Wheeling by threes, which is the method at present adopted for a squadron to break up in, to go about, or for gaining ground towards a flank, should be practised; and trifling as this simple evolution appears, it certainly is difficult, for few squadrons ever do it well. It cannot be done too slowly, as by wheeling on the

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center

center horse, which must turn on its own ground, one horse must wheel forwards round, which is easily done, but the other flanker must wheel backwards *round*, which is very difficult. He must also in this division of the second class, be instructed how to turn to the right or left, and to the right or left about. I recommend the leaping bar at a low hole at first, for the finish of each day's lesson, as he quits the school, on a horse that can leap tolerably well.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE FOREGOING CLASS.

The time I have allotted for the exercises of this second class is very short; but the impatience of commanding officers is very often so great, that they will scarcely allow time for any thing to be taught the recruit, but mounting and dismounting, before they put him into squadron.

In the first class of this chapter the recruit

cruit learns very little but to get a tolerably steady seat on his saddle, his horse merely carrying him ; the second class perfects his seat, and teaches him to ride, that is,

To move forward from the	} a walk, trot, or gallop,
halt in	
To stop from	
To turn to the right or left in	

To retain the horse from	} one pace to an- other.
To quicken him from	

To rein him back and to passage.

With respect to the first of these objects : The hand eased, and the legs applied to the sides, will make him walk off ; the same motion, with a harder squeeze of the leg, will make him trot off.

The gallop is explained in the third class of this chapter.

Of the stop or halt. Whatever degree of retention you would indicate to your horse, the motion of the hand will always be the

third position; for it is by an imperceptible sway of the body backward, that the horse is stopped in all paces; however from the full trot and the gallop, in order to stop the horse on his haunches, which should always be done, the bridle hand should also be gently and gradually raised, at the same moment the body inclines backward, and the legs likewise, whenever the full stop is marked to the horse, should be near his side, and the heels rather back; this will oblige him to sustain the whole weight of himself and his rider on his hind quarters.

This explains the use of the second and third position of the hand, and how far the legs can assist; it also shews the method of reining back, which is a greater degree of retention than the *full stop*, and requires more sway of the body, and more elevation of the hand, but must not be continued; therefore immediately on the horse's shewing
ing

ing his obedience by going backwards, turn your hand to the first position.

If you intend going farther back, replace your hand and body in the attitude which first produced the motion, and so continue easing and retaining alternately till you have completed your intention. The legs should be near the horse during the whole action to be ready to assist in the direction of the croup.

To turn to the right, or right about, the hand is put in the fifth position, and the right leg supports the croup.

In the turn to the left, or left about, the hand is in the fourth position, and the left leg supports the croup. It is to be observed that a horse should never turn on his fore legs, if it can possibly be avoided, but there should be described a circle round the hind legs; however, turning on the fore legs is in some instances unavoidable, as in the
center

center horse of threes, when endeavouring to turn on his own ground.

The application of the leg to the croup is to prevent it ; horses very frequently lame themselves by turning on their fore legs, by causing a violent extension of some muscle of the leg, or by throwing a greater weight on that limb, than it ever was intended to carry. The passage is explained in the third class of the preceding chapter.

THIRD CLASS.

The gallop is the next pace to be taught, nor can there, in my opinion, be any other instruction for the man, than that which an instructor imparts by his hand and leg to the young horse ; I shall therefore refer my reader to the fourth class of the chapter on Training the Troop Horse, as any instruction I can imagine for the man, would be only a repetition of what I said in that place,

place, except that a less time will be necessary in the lunge, and two days practice to each hand; however it will require a much longer time out of the lunge, as it will be necessary for the man to practise a great deal in filings, formings, and circles, as directed in the third division of the second class. This being finished, the recruit should be dismissed from the school, and a drill formed and practised as directed for completing the recruit horse.

The sword exercise, an excellent and necessary accomplishment, should now be practised. On this exercise I will make one observation, which is, that the men who have been generally selected by regiments to learn this art, have not been good horsemen, and have therefore introduced false principles of riding, such as leaning forwards, abandoning the horse, and urging him forward, without the least command

mand over him, to the very great danger of the rider. This, however, I am told, is by no means either adopted or approved of by the very deserving officer to whom the army is indebted for this additional and useful exercise*.

I must now warn my reader of two bad habits which dragoons are very apt to contract: The first is, wide movements with the hands, partly owing to their never holding their reins short enough.

The second, that of always throwing their body forward on the expectation of the word to *march*, previous to their putting their horses in motion, in the same manner, as badly drilled men, when waiting for the word, will rise on tiptoe.

Nothing can be worse than this, and very

* Lord Heathfield, whose skill in equitation amply repays the great pains he bestows upon it, told me, that Major Le Marchant disclaimed any such erroneous practices.

great care should be taken to correct this fault, and almost all recruits have a natural tendency to it. I was obliged once in the case of a man, who was so much addicted to it, as not to be conscious of doing it, to tie a string from his tail to the crupper; the check this gave him when he attempted to rise, reminded him of his fault, and a few lessons perfectly corrected him.

It is highly proper and a most excellent practice to make a ride halt frequently, and move off together in a trot ; this should be performed in the third class of this chapter, as also changing at the *wall* by a right or left about turn. In short after you have got over the first division of the second class ; the more you vary the lesson the better.

Throughout these two courses of equitation in the instruction both of man and horse, I have given to each a specific number of days; I do not mean that it should be inferred from hence that no *more* time

I should

should be employed in each class, but I am convinced that less will not do ; however, that must be left to the discretion of the instructor.

I have endeavoured to methodize it by giving the course a regular succession of exercises, increasing the difficulty of each according to the progress of the learner.

CHAPTER IV.

EVERY field-day, and every time a dragoon mounts his horse, attended by his officers, he should be made to observe a strict attention to good riding, and great care should be taken by every officer commissioned or non-commissioned, (for which reason serjeants and corporals should have a little more instruction than privates) to correct any fault or bad riding in the course of exercise ; and if it appeared to arise from ignorance or inattention, to report such observation to the riding-master, who, it is almost needless to add, should attend, but not in the squadron on these days. One day in the week, all the year round, should be set apart for the whole regiment, with the officers, to go to a riding drill ; a plan of which will be given ; however before I

I | begin

begin upon that subject, I cannot help observing how few and trifling the instructions are, which most regiments give a young officer, who though he may have led the field with fox-hounds, and rode over turnpike gates in his native county, is in all probability, totally unacquainted with the method of riding which is necessarily adopted in regiments of cavalry, and which must be observed by every individual, for one bad rider will cause such confusion as totally to prevent a squadron from moving with regularity and precision.

The method I have recommended, so far from spoiling a hunting seat, will, in my opinion, give it more force, and be more favourable to the horses; it will also make them go up to, and take their leaps in a much better stile.

RIDING DRILL FOR A REGIMENT, TROOP, OR
SQUADRON.

When on ground sufficiently spacious, form a column of troops with intervals of about five times the length of the front of a troop. Each troop should be provided with at least six strong stakes pointed with iron, and an iron collar round the top to prevent the stake from splitting, when driving into the ground. The troop should then be told off into files from the right, and into six sections. Opposite the nose of the pivot horse, set up one stake, and call it No. 1; an officer then casting his eye along the line from the wheeling flank horse's nose must *aline*, on the stake No. 1, a quartermaster, or any man not of the front rank. This done, order your front rank *only* to file straight off by the stake, No. 1. When the rank is in file, at twenty yards beyond the

the

the leading horse, set up another stake, and that will be the length of the drill ground. Opposite the center put another stake; call these 2 and 3; the width of the ground should be about one third of the length; this may be easily guessed, and thence on a line parallel to the first, set up the other posts marked No. 1, 2, 3; so that No. 1 at each corner may be opposite No. 3. Each troop should do the same. The rough rider and officers mounted should be within the square, and give the lesson as follows, which consists of three divisions or reprisals.

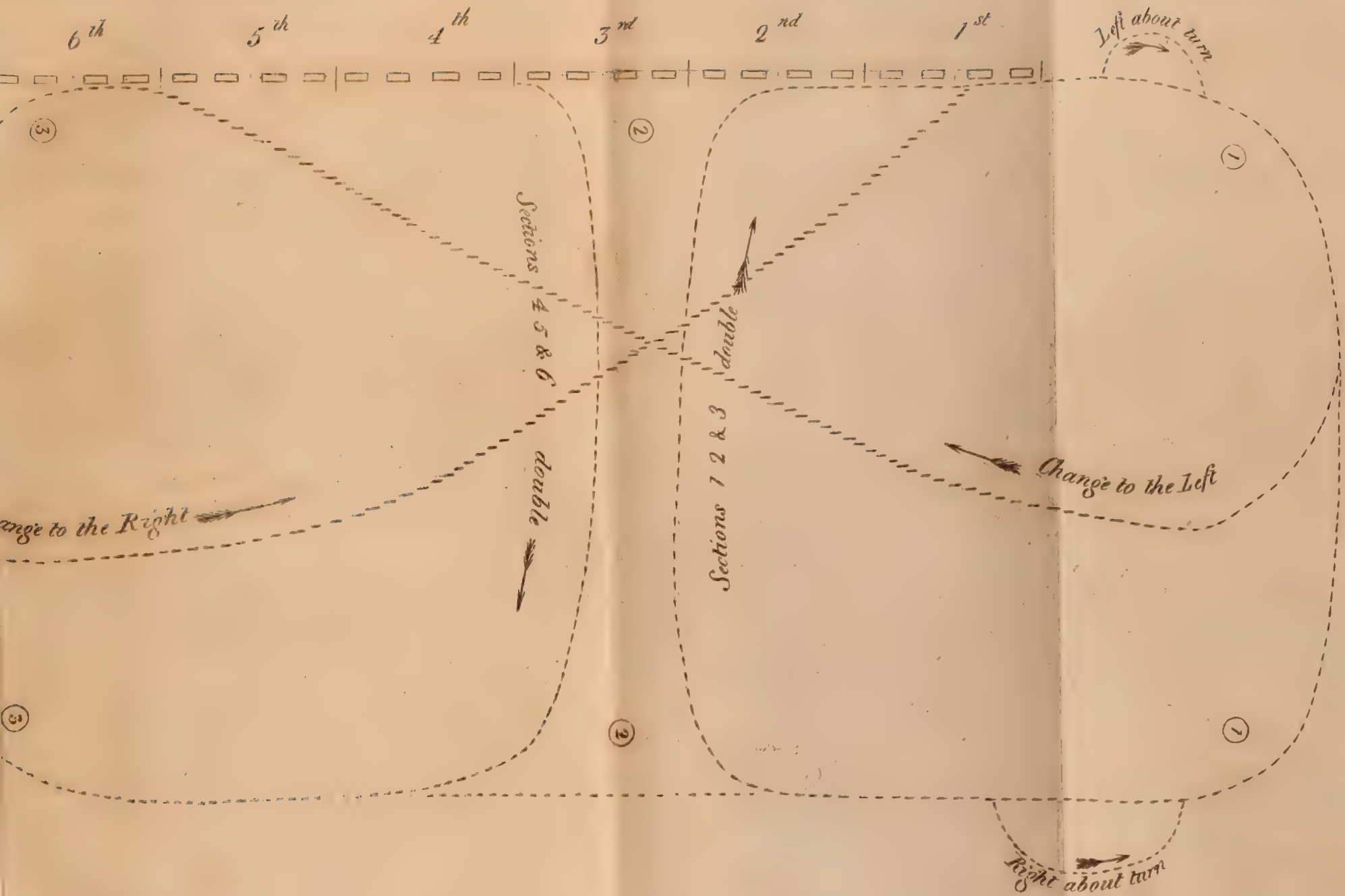
L E S S O N.

FIRST REPRISAL TO THE RIGHT.

Trot. March (one round)

Sections 1, 2, and 3.---Double from 2 to 2.

That will make half your ride; cut the ground in the middle, and then when the
other



other half which are sections 4, 5, and 6, come opposite the next number 2 ;

Sections 4, 5, and 6.---Double.

When this is done, CHANGE.

Doublings to the left to be repeated in the same manner as before described,

CHANGE.	{	Halt. Walk. March.	
		Trot. Walk. Halt.	
		Left about turn.	
		Trot. March.	
		Right about turn.	} Without
		Left about turn.	
	{	Halt. File to the rear.	

Rear rank advance.

(Repeat the first reprisals.)

N. B. Whilst the rear ranks were unemployed at the ride, the sword exercise or any other might be practised which would not fatigue the horses; the front might do the same during the interval of each reprisal.

SECOND REPRISAL TO THE RIGHT.

Trot. March. Form Section.

1, 2, and 3, double.

4, 5, and 6, double.

CHANGE	{	Halt. Walk.	} Each section	
		March. Halt.		moves at the
		Trot. March.		

Reduce the sections.

(This brings them to single horse-men again.)

This is a left move- ment on going to the left.	{	CHANGE.
		<i>Form sections.</i>
		(Doublings as to the right.)
		Halt. Walk. March.

After the rear rank has gone through this reprisal, begin the third in a gallop well supported, horses well on their haunches.

THIRD

THIRD REPRISAL.

To the right.---Gallop. March.

In order to do this well and with safety, let the leading file be opposite the left stake (No. 3.) the others in his rear, three good horses lengths asunder, as each man must on the word march, and at the same moment, make his horse strike into a gallop with the proper leg.

(Twice round.)

Form sections.

1, 2, and 3, double.

4, 5, and 6, double.

CHANGE ! (Twice round.)

Form sections.

1, 2, and 3, }
4, 5, and 6, } Double.

Halt. Gallop. March.

Trot. Walk. Gallop.

Halt. Rein back. March. Halt.

K

March.

March.

Halt.

N. B. The word march *only*, always signifies Walk !

To the right, }
To the left, } Passage. Halt.

The field officers and riding-master should not attach themselves to any particular troop, but keep moving from one to the other, assisting in the instruction. In the riding house this drill would occasionally be very useful to officers and quarter-masters.

An excellent exercise for a regiment or squadron to practise, as it makes the men ride well, and at the same time accustoms them to preserve a uniformity of pace, consists in putting the whole regiment into a column of sixes (which a wheel of ranks by three's to the right or left, will do) with a space of half a horse between each division. Then ordering it to move off at the word
march,

march, in any pace, the whole should start at the same time, and halt all together. This is very difficult : a regiment however, perfect in this exercise, would find all others very easy.

OF STIRRUPS.

In the chapter on the instruction of the man I have said nothing of stirrups, which ought not to be considered as giving any strength or force to a horseman's seat, tho' by a too frequent practice of riding with them, men very often make them a material part of it, which gives a stiffness to the whole body, and renders it impossible to ply to the motions of the horse, and from this circumstance the rider becomes more liable to be thrown off. The intention of the stirrups is to relieve the thighs and hips from the weight of the legs, and to raise and support the foot.

The usual mode of ascertaining the proper length of the stirrup consists in bringing the tread of the stirrup to the ankle bone ; this however shortens the leather too much. The method I prefer, if the man cannot be relied on to adjust the stirrup himself, is after he is well seated on his saddle, to raise the foot at the ball with your hand, till the man bears on it without raising the heel ; then with your whip measure up to the bar on the saddle-tree, from whence the stirrup hangs, and shorten the leather till the tread is the same length from the bar as what you marked on your whip.

I have not spoken of accustoming horses to fire or the sword, because time and patience, with gentle usage, are the only means to make the animal familiar with them. It is however safest, and consequently advisable on all occasions, when a horse is to be initiated in any new exercise, which may astonish his sight or hearing, to secure him

him with a cavesson and lunge, and attempt it, if possible, in the beginning without a rider. With these implements there is power sufficient to hold him, and length of rein to give him room to spring without his entirely escaping, which would not be the case with the bridle reins. It is not uncommon to see a frightened horse, either by the force of his jerk, or by fighting with his fore legs, get away from a man; and when once he has found out that it is in his power so to do, he will be very apt to repeat it.

OF THE BRIDLE.

Riding-masters are very fond of making the men ride on both bit and bridoon, and this they assert tends to preserve the horse's mouth, than which, in my opinion, nothing can be more erroneous; I have met with others who give better reasons for this practice,

practice, viz. that the men might raise their horses by the bridoon. However trifling this may appear, there is nothing which requires so much judgment as the manner of using the bridoon to raise the head, and the bit to place it; for it is only for this purpose both can be made to act at the same time, and then it must be done very steadily and carefully, and requires a much greater skill in the art than a dragoon either has, or can stand in need of. For the first reason, viz. that of preserving the horse's mouth, to any one who considers and understands the effect of the bit (which all riding-masters ought to do) it is clear that the bars of the mouth, having, as is the case in a common coach bit, a uniform pull on them, must soon lose their sensibility and become callous. A well broke horse is accustomed to carry his head high, and by feeling the bit lightly on his bars, preserves in all paces this attitude. The fear of the bit
 acting

acting on them, prevents his hanging his head on it; but if the bridoon is strained, the horse bears upon it to a certain point, and consequently requires a stronger power of the bit to make him feel; and much greater indeed than would be necessary did nothing press the bars: In time therefore he loses that dread of the bit, and throws himself on it, as he did on the bridoon; this renders him hard-mouthed. A heavy and insensible hand which never yields to the horse, also produces the same effect: A heavy hand is a fault, not easily corrected; however, the few and confined movements of the hand, I think necessary to work the bridle, and have consequently recommended in the foregoing part of this book, remedy this defect in a great degree, the men not having it in their power to annoy or spoil their horses mouths.

Another bad effect of making men ride with the bridoon is, they acquire such a habit

bit

bit of making use of both hands, that when they have their swords drawn they cannot ride at all, for want of the bridoon. Their horses are uneasy, owing to the unsteadiness of the bridle hand which throws their noses up in the air. Bridoons are a very necessary appendage to the bit, not to assist its powers, but to relieve the mouth occasionally. Thus on marches over level and good ground, and in going to and from exercise, they should always be used, but then alone and as a snaffle bit, letting the reins of the bit hang on the horse's neck. The hands when using this bit must be low, or high, according as the horse carries his head, but the men should not, as is the case almost always at watering parades, pull up their horses noses, but endeavour to place the head in the same position the bit would bring it to.

OF THE BIT.

Bits in general are extremely ill constructed, owing to an erroneous opinion that the longer the branch is, the more likely it is to stop a horse. This will appear clearly to be a mistaken notion, when the attitude in which a horse is stopped by a bridle is considered. It must be the same, though in a less degree, as he is in when reining back, which is indisputably carrying his weight on his haunches. The effect of a long branch is to a certain point the same as a properly constructed bit, that is, it pinches the under jaw on the bars ; but from its length and power, it pulls the whole of the head down, and the nose into the chest, which of course prevents the horse from throwing himself on his haunches, as it brings the weight on his shoulders ; and no horse on his shoulders can be stop-

L

ped

ped firm and short. This, a bit well made, obliges him to do ; as by squeezing the bar between the mouth piece and the curb chain, the horse is obliged to yield his under jaw, which he cannot well do without raising his head a little, and if at the same time the horseman assist this motion of the horse by raising his hand, and throwing his body gradually back, the horse is absolutely obliged to halt on his hind legs, and thus in my opinion, a bit with a branch just clearing the chin is generally sufficient, but an inch longer is quite enough in any case. The mouth piece should not be small, for if it is, it cuts and lacerates the bars, and renders the mouth uncertain. The chain should for the same reason be made very thick. A bit should be as pleasant as possible to the horse ; if it hurts and annoys him, it takes off his attention to the slight movements of the hand, and makes him fretful and unpleasant. No horse can
run

run away if his head is kept up, and the bit acts on the bars ; but if the bit cuts and torments him, he will throw his nose up, and in that position, the bit, by falling against the corner of the mouth, cannot act on his bars, and then he becomes unmanageable. The mouth piece should not be longer than the width of the horse's mouth, just suffering the branches to hang down close by the side of the lips. The hollow of the mouth piece should not be so wide as to allow the corner to press upon the bars, which would very much torment and hurt the horse.

PLAN FOR A MILITARY SADDLE.

A soldier's saddle should be so constructed that it may be put on the horse without displacing the luggage, which is not trifling, at every unsaddling.

Holsters and pistols.

Carbine and bucket.

L 2

Cloak

Cloak : and

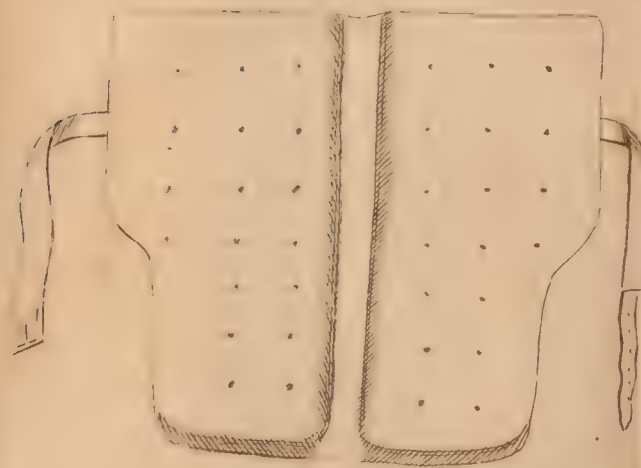
Necessary bag,

In which should be carried his clothes, his stable utensils, oil, and all other things requisite for cleaning his horse, arms, and appointments.---Such articles, which in time of peace might be called necessaries, but on service would be dispensed with, might be carried in a valise or cloth, upon the necessary bag ; which, if it could be made a part of the saddle, would be preferable, as straps and cords are liable to be broken ; and not securing the luggage firm, causes warbles and fore backs. This, I think, might be done without much increase of weight, and being covered with leather or painted cloth, be rather ornamental, and at the same time keep the necessaries dry. I have attempted by a drawing to explain how such a saddle might be made.

FIGURE 1. This is a pannel, which is made to tie into the saddle as a saddle cloth does.

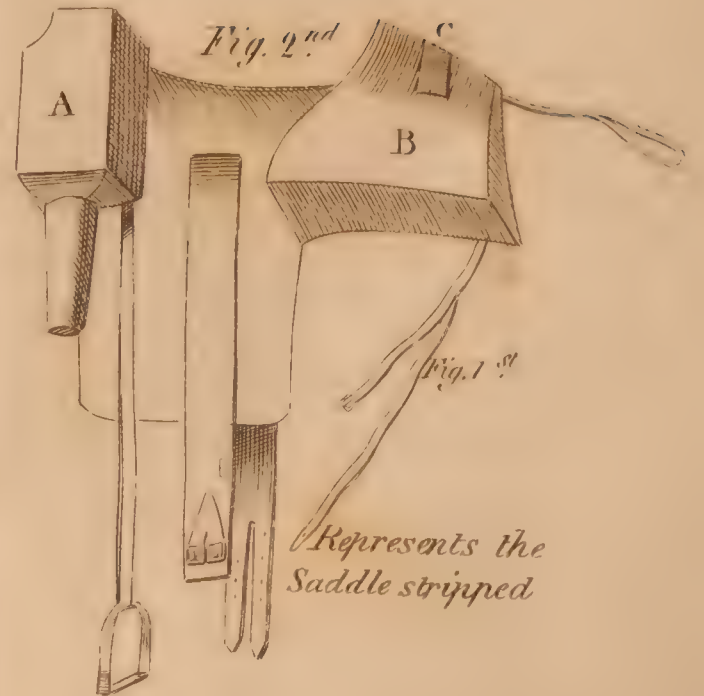
Fig. 2. A. Holster fixed & made a part of the Saddle.
 B. Necessary Bag made a part of the Saddle.
 C. Opening of the Necessary Bags.

Fig. 1st



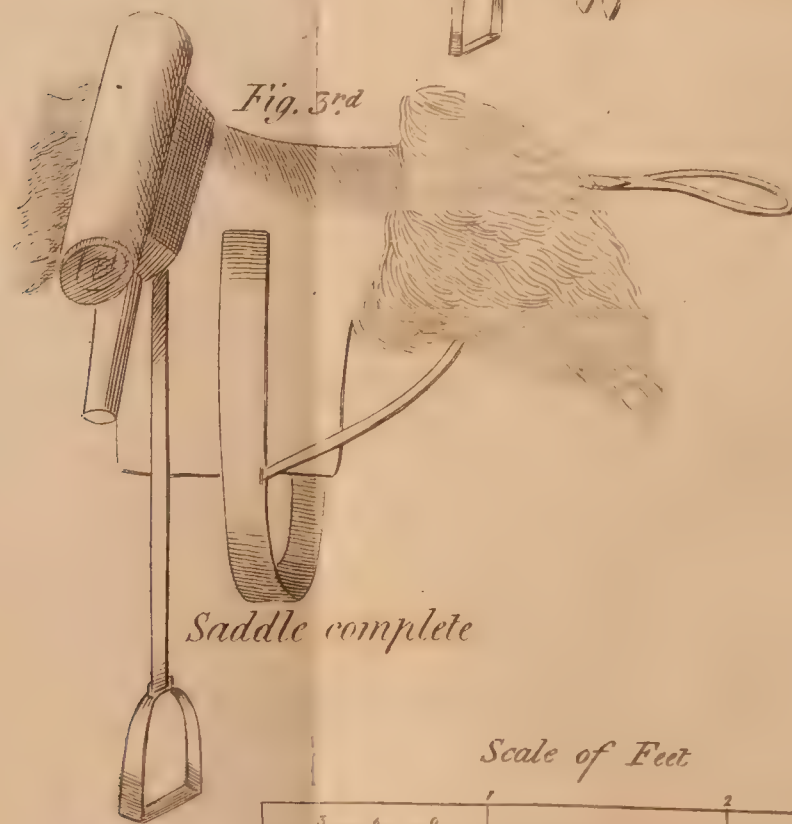
Pannels

Fig. 2nd



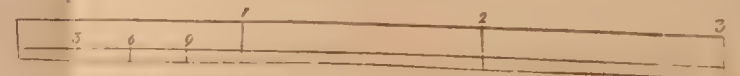
Represents the
Saddle stripped

Fig. 3rd



Saddle complete

Scale of Feet



does. It has a furcingle on it, which secures it tight to the back, and prevents it hurting the back. It is also easier dried than if it was nailed to the faddle, which is a very important consideration.

FIGURE 2. The holsters form two burs, as to a French pique faddle; it rises very much at the pummel, to help the rider's seat, and is then perfectly straight; but at about fourteen inches from the bottom of the slope of the pummel, a strong piece of leather four inches high, is nailed on, resembling the hind cantle of a pique faddle. At about six inches from this nail is another piece of leather, which will be at the extremity of the faddle; this back bit should be only two inches high. The faddle tree which carries this, will continue out under it, about as wide as a pad or mail pillion, and under this the necessary bag should hang, the sides of which are formed by the two pieces of strong leather before-mentioned.

tioned. A quilted pannel, such as smugglers use to keep the load off the horse's flank, and a stout piece of leather sewed over this and joined to the two sides, compose the bottom of the bag ; the upper part and ends are formed of one piece of supple leather, sewed to the upper edges of the side, and it opens immediately in the center by a slit on the top. The stirrups hang from the bottom of the swell of the holster pipe, which as a surcingle is sewed to the bottom of the skirts, is more convenient than hanging from the tree ; it also leaves the legs more at liberty. The holsters are made stiff and strong, and staples fixed to them for the cloak to be buckled to. Over the pommel on the inner edge, a ring is put for the center cloak-strap, which keeps it off the pistols ; a flounce hangs over the holsters, under the cloak. The housings is already described : all the other appointments of bucket, breast-plate, &c. may be easily added. A saddle of this
kind,

kind, which is not much longer than a common one, nor much, if at all, heavier, would be put on the horse in at least one-sixth of the time it now takes up.

I make no doubt but some objections may be made to this saddle, which is of my own invention, though the idea is borrowed from the old pique, which I have frequently heard experienced people call a good sort of military saddle, as being most easy, and giving the man great support in his seat ; and the objection that it heats the men, is answered, by observing how much the cloak, necessaries, and perhaps three day's forage, must on any sort of saddle do it. It is an undenied fact, that soldiers, when fatigued, sleep on their horses, and the load of forage they carry, from its forming a support for their back, is an additional inducement to them to give way to their desire to sleep. On the ordinary saddle they sit loose and roll about, which more frequently produces warbles

warbles and fore backs than any other cause; but in the pique saddle the thighs are steadied by the burs and cantle, which circumstance gives a great security and strength to the seat, and keeps the man firm in his saddle even whilst asleep. I should not have obtruded this saddle of mine on the public, but for the perpetual complaints which are made respecting that important appointment. However, from the recent circumstance of a German officer* of rank being sent to England, to procure patterns of our saddles, which are to be adopted by the army he serves in, I am inclined to think them preferable to any now used.

* This was written in February, 1797.

FINIS.

